

**Stauth, David. “Parasites Found to Cause Willamette Fish Deformities.” OSU News & Communication Services 13 Jan. 2004: 30. (Reviewed by Jessica Miller)**

This article discusses a study by Oregon State University researchers presented to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Two deformity-causing parasites have been identified in Willamette River fish south of Portland. Many of the deformities are caused by a fluke, *Apophallus donicus*, which as a very tiny worm can infect fish. The flukes can penetrate into the bone and cause skeletal deformities, which are especially lethal in young, still growing fish.

The report addresses the human health concerns that could accompany such infected fish. Humans can be affected by the parasites if they eat infected raw fish. However, the article states that human infection can be prevented easily by freezing or cooking the fish. In the case of human infection, only gastrointestinal upset would be caused. For those who recreate near the Newberg Pool in the Willamette though, the author advises that other fish eating animals (such as a pet dog) are vulnerable upon ingestion of an infected fish.

## **Critique**

“Parasites Found to Cause Willamette Fish Deformities” offers readers with a brief, yet accurate description of the parasites studied, the deformities caused, the way in which the deformities are caused, potential reasons for elevated parasites in the studied area, and concerns for nearby citizens. The article clearly advises against ingestion of raw fish, yet assures the reader that the infected fish will not be harmful if frozen or cooked before eating. The article also warns pet owners to be cautious of fish ingestion. Overall, this article is clear about causes of concern and what citizens do not need to worry about. This makes it a great source for interested parties with little or no science background.

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